

## DID ROFRANO SHOOT THE BABY?

ITALIAN SOCIETY IN THE FOURTH WARD ALL SPLIT UP.

Danny Riordan Produces One Carnevali (in Lent), Who Says He Was Not the Baby, the Political Leader, Who Hit the Infant in the Eye—New Trial Ordered.

What is called by one side the romantic outcome of an Italian political feud, and by the other a gross conspiracy to murder, into which has been dragged the name of State Senator Daniel J. Riordan, formerly a member of Congress, came to light yesterday through a decision rendered by Supreme Court Justice Giegarich.

Seven years ago, when Paddy Dwyer was still boss of the Second Assembly district, there were two Italian political organizations within his domain. One, under the leadership of Andrew Barbieri, a contractor, supported Dwyer strenuously because Barbieri and a son of the boss had business affiliations. The other, the Michael A. Rofrano Association, supported Tom Foley in his successful effort to wrest the leadership from Dwyer, because Mike Rofrano hated Barbieri.

On Independence Day, 1898, both factions had an outing, and the following night, July 5, with each other in a fireworks display. The Barbieri clubrooms were on the northeast corner of James and Oak streets; Rofrano's men met on the first floor of the southwest corner.

In the midst of the display, which accompanied a display of pistol shots were heard, and then the screams of a young woman and a child. Little Lena Brienza had been shot in the left eye while reclining in the arms of her elder sister, Julia, who had come out to see the show. Mike Rofrano was arrested and charged with the shooting, but he was discharged by the Magistrate next morning. Then Felice Brienza, father of the injured little one, brought a damage suit against Rofrano in the Supreme Court. A jury gave him a verdict for \$2,000 in April, 1900, from which Rofrano appealed, but the verdict stood, and judgment was entered against him in favor of Brienza for \$2,000. Rofrano filed a petition in bankruptcy, and in summary proceedings it was discovered that all he was supposed to own stood in his mother's name. Fifteen months ago Rofrano, who had made money in the Fourth ward as a builder of Italian tenements, became a superintendent in the Department of Tenement Houses. The Brienza incident seemed to have dropped out of view.

But it had not been forgotten by the parties most interested. A few months ago application was made to Justice Giegarich, in Rofrano's behalf, for reopening the Brienza suit on the ground of newly discovered evidence. Affidavits and counter affidavits were submitted to the court, and on the whole Justice Giegarich has concluded that a new trial should be ordered.

In support of his application, Rofrano repeated his denial that he had fired the shot that blinded little Lena; he says he was on the street seeking a policeman when the shooting occurred, and he has devoted all his spare time, he says, since the accident to finding out who shot the baby. Last May, Rofrano avers, Senator Riordan told him that he knew who had fired the shot; that it was Rocco Carnevali, Rofrano's bitter enemy, a Barbieri man. But now that Andrew Barbieri is dead, the bond of hatred among his followers against Rofrano is dissolved, and Rocco is willing to admit his offense and relieve his old enemy of all blame.

Senator Riordan says in his affidavit that a year or so ago he was accused by Rocco Carnevali in a Park row saloon, where the Senator had gone on business. Rocco, he says, was maddened drunk, and insisted on talking over old political scores. "Let us bury the past and start fresh," were Rocco's words in effect, as the Senator reports them. "I've got nothing against Rofrano any more, and I'm willing to own up that I fired the shot he was arrested for."

The Senator says he was astounded, and demanded more particulars, which Rocco gave, to the effect that he was trying to hit one of the Rofrano men and fired into the crowd. Riordan advised him to make a clean breast of it all at the inquest, and to make a full confession to the grand jury. A solid, law-abiding citizen, in fact, and an honor to the community, Senator Riordan once traveled to Jersey City, and was a somewhat similar certificate of character to the notorious Monk Eastman.

Rocco Carnevali's own affidavit is interesting. It was translated for him by his lawyer, and he signed it. He says that he is a barber and lives at 66 East Broadway. He continues:

"I was the most active and aggressive member of the Barbieri Association. On the evening of the 5th of July, 1898, there was a small celebration at my house, and Rofrano Association gave rival fireworks. They began firing Roman candles at one another, and I was struck by a ball from one while standing on the balcony with Harry Senese. I saw a man in the Rofrano rooms deliberately firing off candles and aiming at me.

"With wild pain, I pulled my gun and blazed away at him. Suddenly I heard a scream and the shouts of people on the first floor of the opposite building. I saw a young woman shouting hysterically as she held a child in her arms. Wild excitement prevailed. I immediately disappeared.

"Subsequently I learned that my mortal enemy, Michael Rofrano, had been arrested and charged with the shooting. About ten men in the Rofrano faction, I heard him, some time before that he had caused my arrest after I had assaulted him. Rofrano was discharged after the hearing in police court, as I was afterward informed.

"A few years have passed since that night. Some months ago Andrew Barbieri died. Now Barbieri is dead, and I have buried my grievance against his enemy, Rofrano. It was the bullet from my revolver that pierced the eye of the child Lena Brienza, and I am willing to go on the stand and testify under oath to these facts as I have stated them.

Harry Senese and Michael Sant' Angelo, a saloonkeeper, made affidavits corroborating Rocco's statements.

The affidavits on the Brienza side of the issue directly contradict this alleged discovery. Felice Brienza relates how, since the entry of the judgment, Rofrano has repeatedly offered both in person and by proxy, to settle the affair for \$100 cash. In February, 1904, Brienza says Michael Sant' Angelo summoned him to his saloon and assured him that it would be well to accept the \$1,000. Rofrano, Sant' Angelo said, was now a great political personage, who could do the Brienzas a great deal of harm if he felt so inclined. Besides, he had now great influence at court and could have the judgment cancelled if he wished, but he felt pity for the child and was willing to pay a fair sum in settlement. Brienza refused the offer. Sant' Angelo, he says, is Rofrano's godfather, and a had man to boot; a fugitive from Italian justice. Rocco Carnevali or "Rocco," as he is familiarly known, Brienza describes as a most notorious character who lives on the earnings of dissolute women. Rocco has been a frequent visitor at the Brienza home to induce the father to settle the case, and has threatened shown himself to be a great trouble rather than an enemy of Rofrano long before the date of his alleged confession.

The whole proceeding to reopen the case Brienza characterizes as a trick upon the court. Carnevali incurs no criminal risk by his confession at this date, and Brienza says, any one of Rofrano's political henchmen would do the same thing. As a matter of fact, the father declares, Rocco could not have shot the little girl, as he was, by his own statement, on the same side of the

## Where Simplicity Finds True Expression.

For the coming Spring time our exhibits in Bedroom furniture are devoted strongly to the offering of pieces where simplicity in form and color proves a happy theme. The low-Twin Beds with quaint half posts—the Chests of Drawers with movable mirrors—with Bureaus, Tables, Desks and Chairs that are expressive of refined simplicity and a well-defined meaning toward character in design.

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## BONUS FOR SNOW REMOVERS.

MRS. LAWRENCE REWARDS THEM WITH HALF DOLLARS.

So Pleased to See the Snow Cleared From East Twenty-fifth Street That She Sent to the Bank for the Coins—Has Lived in the Block Half a Century.

A gang of snow shovelers were busy yesterday afternoon chopping away at the last remnants of hard-caked snow in East Twenty-fifth street when they were told by their foreman to stop work. A moment before a white-haired but active and bright-faced woman had appeared at the door of 37 East Twenty-fifth street and beckoned to the foreman.

As he looked up she held out a package of brand new half dollar pieces, which had come only that morning from the Lincoln National Bank.

"I think it would have been better," said the woman in telling the story after, "if the men had formed in line, for I am afraid that some of them got more than their share."

At any rate, it didn't take Mrs. Lydia Underhill Lawrence, the donor, very long to get rid of the half dollars. The men were as profuse in their thanks as only Italians know how to be. A bystander saw several of them kneel on the sidewalk for a moment as they murmured their thanks, and one man even took out his beads.

Mrs. Lawrence, who is 74 years old, but doesn't look it, is a daughter of the late Walter Underhill, a Congressman during the civil war. Many of her relatives still live in Twenty-fifth street close to her home. Richard Trimble, secretary of the United States Steel Corporation, is her nephew, and lives in No. 53. Other members of the Trimble family live on the same block.

Mrs. Lawrence's husband, Henry E. Lawrence, was a prominent commission merchant in this city, and one of his ancestors was an early Mayor of the city. Mrs. Lawrence's husband built the house on Twenty-fifth street, in which she has lived for nearly fifty years. When the house and several adjoining buildings which she owns were put up open fields stretched to the north of the houses. Mrs. Lawrence has taken an interest in the neighborhood in her half century of residence there, and her pride in it has even extended to the condition of the streets.

For weeks Lawrence's street has been covered with snow. Mrs. Lawrence worried about it and asked Mayor Woodbury, who was related to her husband, if something could be done. He replied that there were many streets uptown that needed cleaning more.

That was a very just reply, said Mrs. Lawrence yesterday, and I could not ask any more of him. But I thought the street ought to be cleaned. My nephew, Richard Trimble, has not been here for some time, but when the snow melts it will be under his feet. So I hired two men to shovel away the snow. As you see, they only cleaned up a little part of the street in front of my house, and said that they would have to get pickaxes to do any more."

Either Mayor Woodbury relented or else Twenty-fifth street was reached in the regular course of events, for on Friday a white wagon went to Mrs. Lawrence's house and her husband's name would be on it. A few minutes later a gang of men went to work.

And would you believe it," said Mrs. Lawrence later, "the men worked nearly all night. So when I saw men working this morning I sent for the half dollars. Whether the men who I gave the money to were the ones who worked the last night I do not know. But it was so good to see the snow taken away that I wanted to give them something."

## DIVORCED WOMAN BANISHED.

Mrs. Catherine G. Brown Forced to Leave Chicago or Go to Jail.

CHICAGO, March 11.—With a choice given by Justice Hurley between banishment from Chicago and a long term of imprisonment in the Bridewell, Mrs. Catherine G. Brown, divorced wife of Charles E. Brown, the wealthy secretary of the Central Electric Company, to-day chose to leave town.

Mrs. Brown, who had been arrested and fined \$5 and costs for disorderly conduct, was sent to the Erring Women's Refuge, where she will be held pending the arrival of her father, Gen. James Graves of Buffalo, N. Y. He will carry out Justice Hurley's banishment by taking his daughter back to her girlhood home.

The fine had been imposed on Friday on a charge of disorderly conduct and she had no money. She was again arraigned to-day, accused of keeping a disorderly house and of another offense.

"Please don't bring my father into this affair, your Honor," pleaded Mrs. Brown. "God knows I've been disgraced enough to him, and I'd rather suffer the legal penalty than have him brought into the case."

Justice Hurley ignored her plea and late to-day word was received from her father that he would come to Chicago for his daughter.

Indorsement for George E. Wilbur. The Republican executive committee in Brooklyn yesterday indorsed the candidacy of George E. Wilbur, a colored Republican, for the place held by Charles W. Anderson on the State Ticket Commission. Mr. Anderson has been nominated by President Roosevelt for Collector of Internal Revenue in Manhattan.

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## NEW NAVAL MAGAZINE.

The Government to Purchase 900 Acres on the Fore River in Massachusetts.

BOSTON, March 11.—The United States Government has bonded about 900 acres of land on either side of Fore River owned by about eighty persons, and as soon as possible it will be purchased by the bureau of ordinance of the Navy Department for use as a naval magazine. The Government's representatives have secured the option without the intentions being made known to all sellers.

The land is admirably situated for use as the site for the magazine, which will cost, when finally completed, in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000 and will be the best in the country. The bonded land is in the towns of Weymouth and Hingham and is easily accessible by land and water. It is not the intention of the naval people to use the entire tract for storing explosives, as the buildings for this use will cover only a few acres, the remaining land being bought up to keep people at a safe distance.

For several years the Government has been making efforts to secure a proper site for a great magazine somewhere along the New England coast, one in close proximity to the city being preferred. Each year the chief of bureau of ordinance has called the attention of the Navy Department to the need for a new magazine, saying there was need of consequence east of New York. He said that the one in Chelsea is so far within the thickly settled limits of Greater Boston as to make it of no further use for the purpose for which it was originally intended, and the one at Portsmouth is too small to be of any account.

Last year Congress gave the matter consideration and set apart a small appropriation which has been used to secure temporary title to the land and for surveying expenses. As soon as the necessary appropriation is secured the site will be bought outright and the erection of buildings commenced.

## DANCED TILL SHE FAINTED.

This Was at Her Wedding Reception and at the End of Four Hours.

Mrs. Adam Polinski, 22 years old, was compelled to leave her wedding reception at Muscovite Hall, Fine and Lafayette streets, Jersey City, on Friday night after dancing, so it is said, with nearly one hundred guests. She fell in a faint at the end of four hours and was carried to the dressing room.

When she came to she said she would go on with the dance, but her husband prevailed on her to go to her home at 242 Pine street. He returned to the hall and helped to entertain the guests until an early hour in the morning. According to the Polish custom the bride is expected to dance with every man who attends her wedding reception.

## CORDOVA WITHOUT FUNDS.

State Has to Pay for the Witnesses at the Minister's Trial.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., March 11.—Lawyer Harry Cook made an application in court this morning for a stenographer for the trial on Monday of the Rev. J. Frank Cordova, the former South River minister. The lawyer also asked that an order be signed giving him subpoenas in the case. His request was granted.

This action shows that Cordova is without funds, as the State always pays for the witnesses in such cases. The father of Miss Julia Bowne, with whom the South River minister eloped, is not as anxious for the prosecution as he was at first. He is getting tired of the notoriety. Mr. Bowne has become convinced that he will never be able to induce his daughter to give up the minister and his opinion is that the next best thing to do is to send them away.

## QUAIL FOR NEW JERSEY.

One Thousand Dozen to Be Distributed by the Game Commission.

An attempt is about to be made to stock the country about Ridgewood, N. J., with quail. George F. Brackett of Ridgewood has received from the president of the State Game Commission a consignment of plump birds, which he will distribute in pairs in the woods near his home. A second lot of birds will be let loose by E. F. Thomas, another resident of Ridgewood. The great danger to a successful issue of the enterprise is the number of stray dogs that may kill off the young birds before they are old enough to keep out of harm's way.

The State Game Commission will distribute 1,000 dozen of these game birds throughout the State, and it has been issued two game refuges for the protection of the birds. One refuge is near Westwood.

## Thomas King, Sr., Killed by Train.

ORANGE, N. J., March 11.—Thomas King, Sr., of 19 Second street, South Orange, was struck and instantly killed last evening in Montrose by a Lackawanna locomotive. His body was mangled beyond recognition. Mr. King had been driving and had stopped at the station. He saw an acquaintance across the track and left his carriage to go to speak to him. He did not observe that the evening Morristown express was coming up the track, and stepped squarely in front of the locomotive. Mr. King was 62 years old and had lived in South Orange for many years. His wife, a daughter and five sons survive him.

## HARRISON MONUMENT SITE.

Indianapolis People Want a Place on Government Owned Ground.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 11.—Members of the Benjamin Harrison Monument Commission were in consultation to-day with Charles H. Neihaus, the sculptor whose design for the Harrison monument has been accepted by the executive committee of the commission, with a view to adopting a plan to overcome the objections of the Government architects to placing the monument in the open space in front of the new Government building.

Just before the Legislature adjourned permission was given to the commission to place the monument in University Park, but the members of the commission and the people of the city as a whole believe the proper place for it is on the grounds immediately in front of the Federal building. The commission will appeal to the Department at Washington for permission to use the grounds, and if the Department rejects the request the appeal will be prosecuted before the President. The fact that Mr. Harrison was a President of the United States is regarded as sufficient to justify the request that his monument find a place on the Government building site, but the commission will not make any modifications of the plans, as required by the architects, preferring to use the park site instead.

## BOSTON'S SACRED COMMON.

Mayor Collins to Clear Subway Contractors Off the Famous Playground.

BOSTON, March 11.—Mayor Collins has notified the Boston Transit Commission that the use of a part of the playground on Boston Common by the contractors building the Washington street subway is unwarranted and illegal, and says that he will take steps to have the Common freed from the obstructions as soon as he returns to Boston from the South.

Since the contractors began to use the Common there has been a vigorous protest against private individuals encroaching on the playground. George H. Upham, president of the Boston Common Society, ascertained that the necessary permission was given to the contractors from the Mayor's office on the representations of the transit commission, that the contractor must have some convenient place of storage for material used in the construction of the tunnel.

On this understanding, and with the stipulation that only about 8,000 square feet of the playground should be occupied, the requisite authority was given. Mr. Upham caused the pre-empted space to be measured and discovered that, instead of taking 8,000 square feet, the contractor has "staked out" nearly 25,000 square feet, or about one-third of the entire playground space.

The playground has been the sacred property of the Boston boys since 1775, when Gen. Gage commanded the British troops not to interfere with the winter sports of the youngsters of those days. It resembles a mining camp now.

## Congressman Off on the Trail of Spring.

Chairman T. E. Burton and eighteen members of the Rivers and Harbors Committee of the House of Representatives, many of whom are accompanied by their wives, sailed yesterday aboard the army transport Sumner for Porto Rico on a tour of inspection. On their return the party will stop at Santo Domingo and Cuba, arriving at New Orleans about April 1.

## Stabbed in Fight Over a Dollar.

John Mills, 32 years of age, was stabbed and probably mortally injured by Ralph Millmore, 25 years of age, yesterday afternoon in a saloon near the St. George ferry house, Staten Island. Both men were employed as masons on the new Borough Hall building. The quarrel was about a dollar which one said the other owed him.

## President Harper to Go to Italy.

CHICAGO, March 11.—President Harper of the University of Chicago will leave the city for Italy early next week. He is now regarded by his physicians as strong enough to endure a long journey, and it is the plan of the Harper family to leave with him as soon as possible.

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In ROBES (UNMADE) are shown Broderie Anglaise and Broderie Nancy, with short and long coat effects, also Hand-Embroidery combined with Irish, Valenciennes, Bruges and Princess Laces. And a complete line of Hand-Embroidered Linen Blouses (unmade.)

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EMBROIDERED ARTICLES, WOOLEN YARNS,

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STAMPED PIECES ON HEAVY LINENS, FOR EYELET EMBROIDERY SUITABLE FOR SHIRT WAISTS, COLLARS AND CUFFS.

HARDANGER FINISHED PIECES ON CANVAS, ALSO MATERIALS USED IN MAKING EMBROIDERED CENTRE PIECES ON LINEN; FRENCH EMBROIDERED PILLOW TOPS, STAMPED LINENS, STAMPED AND TINTED TABLE COVERS AND PILLOW TOPS.

LARGE VARIETY OF EMBROIDERED PILLOWS, PIN CUSHIONS, SCRAP BASKETS; GLOVE, HANDKERCHIEF, JEWEL AND SEWING BOXES; EMBROIDERED PHOTO FRAMES, SILK COAT HANGERS, SEWING BAGS, VEIL AND COLLAR CASES, TRAVELLING CASES, ETC.

LAUNDRY, COLLAR, CUFF AND SHOE BAGS, ALSO AN ASSORTMENT OF EMBROIDERED MATERIALS, INCLUDING EMBROIDERY FLOSSES, SHETLAND FLOSS, GERMAN-TOWN AND SAXONY WOOL.

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to 75c. per yard, at 25c. and 38c. per yard.

Fine French and English Cretonnes, fifty inches wide,

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AN IMPORTANT SALE WILL BE HELD, CONSISTING OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND YARDS OF COLORED TAFFETA SILK, IN AN ASSORTMENT OF OVER ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SHADES.

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